

REMARKS

Interview Summary

Applicants' representative would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of extending a telephonic interview on September 5, 2007. During the interview, a draft proposed amendment to claim 26, similar to that introduced in the present response, was discussed in view of Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0009472 by Azami et al. ("Azami") and U.S. Patent No. 6,088,717 to Reed et al. ("Reed"). Applicants' representative argued, based on reasons similar to those presented below, that the proposed amendment overcomes the prior of record. The Examiner indicated that the amendment requires further consideration. Thus, no agreement has been reached regarding the patentability of the claims.

Claims

Claims 26, 28-56 and 58-86 were pending when last examined. With this Response, Applicants cancel claims 71 and 81-86 and amend claims 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 35-42, 45-54, 56, 58-65, 68-70, 72-77, and 80. Support for the amendment can be found at least in FIGS. 6, 9, 15 and 16 and in the corresponding description in the specification. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 26, 28-56, 58-70, and 72-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azami in view of Reed. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 26, as amended, recites a document management system that includes a document storage device to store at least one XML electronic document. The system also includes a document receiving device coupled to the document storage device to receive updates to the XML electronic document. The XML electronic document describes metadata related to broadcasting a plurality of television programs, and has a hierarchical structure comprising an upper structural element and a plurality of lower structural elements located below the upper structural element in the hierarchical structure to describe broadcast

information and content information for each of the television programs. Each of the received updates includes the upper structural element and updated information for a subset of the plurality of lower structural elements, wherein each lower structural element in the subset has a respective version value and the document receiving device is configured to process one of multiple versions of the XML electronic document according to the version values in the updates to the XML electronic document, wherein date information and time information of contents of the XML electronic document are used in the version values.

Azami discloses transmitting metadata fragments and using the fragments for assembling and updating hierarchically structured metadata. *See* Azami's Abstract and FIGS. 2, 3 and 9. The transmitted metadata fragments include "Connection Point" and "Fragment Location" information based on which Azami reconstructs the entire hierarchically structured metadata from the transmitted fragments. *Id.* Although Azami discloses updates to a "Lower-Rank" description, Azami's updates are transmitted without a corresponding "Upper-Rank" description or a structural element that is located above the Lower-Rank description in the hierarchy. *See* FIG. 9. In contrast, the claim requires a hierarchical structure that includes an upper structural element and a plurality of lower structural elements located below the upper structural element in the hierarchical structure, and that each of the received updates includes the upper structural element and updated information for a subset of the plurality of lower structural elements. Thus, Azami fails to disclose updates including the claimed combination of the upper structural element and the updated subset of the lower structural elements.

Reed discloses an automated communication system with archiving capabilities (*see* Reed's Abstract), but it is also lacking updates including the claimed combination of the upper structural element and the updated subset of the lower structural elements.

Because neither Azami nor Reed discloses the above discussed limitations of the claimed updates, claim 26 is allowable. Claims 28-35 depend from claim 26 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claims 36, 46, 47, 58, 69 and 70 recite methods for updating, processing or managing documents, and require an update that has a combination of the upper structural element and the updated subset of the lower structural elements similar to that discussed above with reference to claim 26. Because neither Azami nor Reed discloses such an update, independent claims 36, 46, 47, 58, 69 and 70 are allowable. Dependent claims 37-45, 48-56, 59-68, and 72-80 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Applicants appreciate that the Examiner has withdrawn the rejection of claim 28 based on 35 U.S.C. Section 112.

Specification

The Examiner maintained the objection to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

Applicants have amended the claims, and respectfully submit that the amended claims are fully supported by and have proper antecedent basis in the specification, which includes the figures. For example, claim 26 recites a hierarchical structure comprising an upper structural element and a plurality of lower structural elements located below the upper structural element in the hierarchical structure. Such a hierarchical structure and its corresponding structural elements are shown, e.g., in FIGS. 6-9. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Objections

The Examiner maintained the objection to claim 28 because of informalities. Claim 28 and its base claim 26 were amended. As discussed above with reference to the specification, the amended claims are fully supported by and have proper antecedent basis in the specification. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7493.

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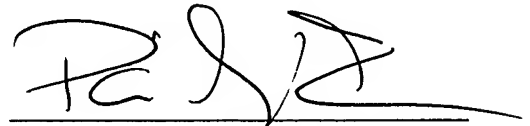
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Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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